

Greenbrier County line, Henry Grimes from bridge near Chas, Grimes to Leonard Herrings on Knapps Creek, John Waugh from head of Browns Creek to Chas Grimes, Levi Cackley from 26 mile tree on Beaverlick Creek to Huntersville, John Gilland from Thomas Bradshaws to top of mountain on Williams River, Abraham Hill from Amos Kinnisons toward Nicholas County, Jacob Lightner from Henry Herolds to Leonard Herrings lane, John Jordin from 2nd. ford on Beaverlick Creek to 26 mile tree, James Woods to top of Valley Mountain at Randolph County line, to Cloverlick, Solomon Buzzard from Thomas Galfords to Fanny Arbogasts, John B. Tidd from top of Rich Mountain to Greenbrier County line, Jacob Mathews from Robert McOutcheons to the $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile tree above Wm. Bradshaws this covered about all the roads of mention of the county at that time.

The court ordered that William C. Price, John Hill, David S. Ruckman & Wm. Edmiston be appointed commissioners to superintend the election of Representatives to the General Assembly and to Congress this to be held at William C Prices in May. After the formation of the county the business of the court continued to increase as the county seat was in the midst of the inhabitants, this being one of the reasons for the formation of the County of Pocahontas, was a centralized local government.

Information--County Court Order Books # 1, 2 & 3. Marlinton. W. Va.

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C. W. Price Marlinton, W. Va.
W. G. McKeever, Buckeye, W. Va.

Pocahontas County
Chapter 10

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Pocahontas County
Chapter 10

9/20/41 County Government. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.
-Chapter 10 -

Pursuant to an act of the General Assembly of Virginia entitled an act forming a new county out of part of Bath, Pendleton and Randolph Counties on the 5th, day of ~~MAY~~ February 1822. John Jordan, William Poage, James Tallman, John Baxter and George Burner were commissioned as Justices of the County of Pocahontas, these gentlemen met at the house of John Bradshaw on March 5th, John Baxter administered the oath to the other men, this oath was to uphold the constitution of the U.S and the Commonwealth and against dueling, these men after taking the oath took their seats and organized themselves into a court for Pocahontas County.

John Jordan being commissioned by his excellency Thomas Mann Randolph Governor of Virginia as the sheriff of Pocahontas County, who gave bond according to law with Abraham and Isaac McNeel as his surities in the amount of \$ 30,000.00. Josiah Beard was appointed by the court as clerk of the county Court with bond of \$ 3,000.00 with Thomas Beard, George Poage and James Tallman as surities, his oath was the same as the other gentlemen. Johnston Reynolds was appointed as attorney for the commonwealth in Pocahontas County. Sampson Mathews was appointed by the court as a fit and proper person to fill the office of surveyor for Pocahontas County. Milburn Hughes was appointed constable for the lower district which is Little Levels today, where he formerly acted as constable when the county was within the boundary of Bath

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9/20/41 County Government. S.G.S. Pocahontas County -Chapter 10.

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The proceedings of the next day was the following Jonathan Jordan was qualified as a deputy sheriff to assist his father. James Callison was appointed surveyor for Little Levels to keep the roads in repair, William Edmiston was appointed surveyor for a stretch of road from William Poages to the second ford on Beaver-Lick Creek. John Hill appointed as overseer from second ford on Beaver-Lick Creek to the twenty mile tree, he formerly worked under Isaac McNeel who kept the road up before this time. Alexander Woddle appointed to oversee the road leading from the fork of road on Douthards Creek to the top of Allegheny Mountain. John McNeel (Little) appointed to look after the road from Stephen Hole Run to the ford of Greenbrier River opposite William Poages. Robert Moore to look after road from William Poages to John Bradshaws. Martin Dilley to look after the road from forks of road on Douthards Creek to Isaac Moores on Knappa Creek with the same men he had working under him before the county was formed. Benjamin Arbogast for the road leading from Levi Moores to the corner of Thomas Galfords fence. William Sharp the road from John Dunn-

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1820/41 County Government. S.G.S. Pocahontas Co. page 3-

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The following men were recommended as Justices of the Peace Jacob Mathews, Thomas Hill, John Slaven, James Callison, William Edmiston, John Gilland, William Cackley, Samuel Cummings, John Bradshaw, Joseph Moore, Patrick Bruffey, James Waugh and James Sharp court adjourned to meet April 2/1822.

By this time there had been some little trouble within the border of the county so a grandjury was chosen to sit and hear testimony and if the facts were proven an indictment was returned against each person that had committed a crime, the grandjury composed of the following men sat as a body Samuel Maugherty, Foreman, John Moroney, John Johnston, Joseph Friel, James Grames, James

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Richard Hill George Poage, John Bradshaw, James Tallman And John Slaven were appointed as overseers of the poor for Pocahontas County. A deed was recorded from Thomas Cochran and wife to James Rankin this deed was acknowledged at this time by the court. This territory was in the 8th, Judicial Circuit at that time. On May 8th, the first school commissioners were appointed they were the following Thomas Hill, Samuel Gay, Patrick Bruffey, James Tallman and John Gilland.

This court fixed the price of an(Ordinary) which was a dining place where the prices were fixed Diet 25 cts, lodging 8 cts, grain per gallon 12½ cts 12 hours at hay 12½ cts, whiskey per gill 6¼ cts, Brandy per gill 6¼ cts, Jamaica spirits per gill 12½ cts, French Brandy 12½ cts and Rum per gill 10 cents these prices were fixed by the court at the May term 1822.

Information-County Court Order Book # I . Court House. Marlinton. W. Va.

G.W Price. Marlinton. W. Va.

W.G McCrever. Buckeye. W. Va.

4/20/21 County Government. S.G.S. Pocahontas County. Page 4--

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Pocahontas Co.
Chap 10



RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

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Pocahontas Co
Chap 10



County Government. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

The county levy of 1822 was \$ 950.47 and much of this was to pay the bounty on wolf scalps at 4.00 each as the labor was only 50cts a day at that time, the total taxable population at that time was 437 each of them payed 2.17 and the levy was met. The levy for the year of 1823 was \$1.453.12 the Governor of Virginia at that time was James Pleasants. The county Court met once each month the year through, and much of their work was helping to enforce the laws, the constables often had to take stock and hold it for a debt and for security they were allowed 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents per day for a horse, 3cts for a cow and 1 ct, each for a hog and a sheep, this rate was for 24 hours.

Many of the endictments in the youth of the county was for assault and battery and disturbing the peace with a few cases of larceny. Delinquencies for the year of 1823 was \$ 17.07 this was a very small amount but at that day and time it was considered large, but money was very hard to get and about all the money a family got hold of during the year went to pay the taxes. At this time William Poage was appointed Sheriff with William Arbogast and Jonathan Jordan as his deputies.

About this time many so called Ordinaries were opened up, and in fact you found one in each populated area throughout the county, the court granted a license to each one who opened up an Ordinary, they were the same as our Tourists Homes of today. Deeds were passed by the court before they were recorded

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT .S.G.S POCAHONTAS COUNTY.

Public and affairs in general. The May term of court of 1826 was attended by the following members Robert Gay, John Gillain, William Blair, John Bradshaw and James Waugh, by this time right much land was being sold and titles transferred, this was all done by the court and the clerks. The county Levy was layed by the County Court assisted by the Magistrates of all over the county.

September 5. 1826 James Kerr a minister of the gospel of the Presbyterian church and an ordained minister was granted the rights of holy matrimony. From time to time a commission was appointed to authorize, ⁺recommend the repair and alter roads throughout the county and various men served on these commissions but all were influential citizens. The magistrates of the county recommended a man for Sheriff of the county who was then recommended and confirmed by the court. The salary of all county men was very small and the men that worked on the roads generally received the small sum of 25 cts, per day. Some of the most common offenses at that time were assault and battery, obstructing public roads and one particular case at this time was one against Mary Erwin for stealing and carrying away 11 shoats at a value of \$ 9.00 they were the property of John Sharp(This shows the value of shoats then and now as ¹¹ shoats at the present time would be worth \$ 55.00 or more.

John Tyler was Governor of the commonwealth at XXIX that time. This section furnished money to help construct a road from Staunton to the mouth of

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George Mayes was the first prosecuting attorney of Pocahontas
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were seeking. All wills were probated by the court as of today and this
was one of the reasons for forming a new county in 1821 so that we could
have our county Government in the midst of the people it was to serve.

The next Governor of Virginia was William B Giles and he wor-
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Ben (the man of color) referred to in the will of Jacob Warwick this man
of color was a Negro slave and after his masters death he took the name
of Benjamin Warwick in honor of his master Jacob Warwick, Ben had been a
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Forming establishing and maintaining a new county with a small population was right much of a struggle for the few public spirited local men as many of the first settlers of what is now Pocahontas were just hunters and trappers helping out digging Ginseng and fishing, they were very little interested in the county government and public affairs in general as they wanted to be free men with little or no law, these were typical mountain people of which we have a few at the present time populating our mountainous sections, still contented to make a living out of the woods by hunting and digging Ginseng, the change that took place in this era failed to change this people the typical Mountaineer of which many are to be found in the hills of old Pocahontas in the West Virginia Hills where the tiny brook ripples down the mountain side and winds its way to larger waters that finally reach the ocean miles and miles away.

Information-Court Records Marlinton.W.Va.

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And

from a copy of records from a petition found in Bath County
Va.

NOW IN THE HANDS OF R.W. BROWN,
ARBOVALE, WVA.

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NOW IN THE HANDS OF R.W. BROWN
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County government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. Va. Pocahontas Co #1
was first under the regime of Augusta County, and the laws that
ruled the entire area of Augusta County was the law that controlled the
interests of what is now Pocahontas, and "Greater Bath County". The same law
it controlled the pioneers of what is now Pocahontas. The same law, custom,
habits, religiously, and politically, of Bath County were the same as was
noticed by the very early controlling bodies of Pocahontas County after
formation.

I am sending a petition of the names of the men that brought about
formation of Greater Bath County which included the Pocahontas Area.
This petition bears date of April 15th 1778 and is recorded in the Annals
the County of Bath Va. Bath County was formed Dec. 14th 1790. The pet-
ition was made about 12 years before the formation of Bath, some other
petitions were made but are not at hand.

15th April 1778

To the Honorable Speaker & Gentlemen Delegates sitting now

The petition of the Inhabitance of Iw and Calf pastures Bull pasture
Jackson River and Back Creek Humbly Sheweth

That yr petitioners not only at present but for many years
past ~~have~~ have labored under so great and grievous disadvantages by
Reason of the great Distance the most of us yr petitioners lives
from our Courts of Justice from forty to fifty and others near sev-
enty miles from our nearest court house besides these on our plan-
tion in the upper end of greenbrier at thirty and forty miles fort-
her back not to mention Tygers valley which is yet dependent on the same
so it would be better for the most of us to get up with small number
of petitioners than to attend our present courts for common jus-
tice at so great a distance and specially in these extravagant times
therefore yr petitioners humbly pray that our great difficulty and
inconvenience may be removed by creating us another county of our own and as

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it controlled the pioneers of what is now Pocahontas. The same law, custom,
habits, religiously, and politically, of Bath County were the same as was
noticed by the very early controlling bodies of Pocahontas County after
formation.

I am sending a petition of the names of the men that brought about
formation of Greater Bath County which included the Pocahontas Area.
This petition bears date of April 13th 1778 and is recorded in the Annals
the County of Bath Va. Bath County was formed Dec. 14th 1790. The pet-
tion was made about 12 years before the formation of Bath, some other
petitions were made but are not at hand.

13th April 1778

To the Honorable Speaker & Gentlemen Deligates sitting now

The petition of the Inhabitance of Cow and Calf pastures Bull pasture
Jackson River and Back Creek Humbly Sheweth

That yr petitioners not only at present but for many years
past ~~we~~ have labored under so great and grievous disadvantages by
Reason of the great Distance the most of us yr petitioners lives
from our Courts of Justice from forty to fifty and others near sev-
enty miles from our nearest court house besides these on our plan-
tion in the upper end of greenbrier at thirty and forty miles fath-
er back not to mention Tygers valley which is yet dependent on ~~the same~~
so it would be better for the most of us to put up with small ~~incon-~~
veniences done to us than to attend our present courts for common jus-
tices at so great a distance and specially in these Extravagant Times
therefore we yr petitioners humbly praye that our great difficulty and
hardships may be removed by granting us anew county of our own and as

County Government. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va Pocahontas Co
 of us yr petitioners & inhabitants of Calf pasture are lately Thro-
 into Rockbridge County much against our minds and inclinations as its
 ly more inconvenient than stanton and worse road, therefore the whol
 us yr petitioners Humbly prays that our County if granted may be str-
 uck off from augusta and Rockbridge counties by the dividing Waters on
 the top of the North Mountain The lower End to begin on the top of ad
 mountain square with the mouth of the Cowpasture River from thence to the
 lower End of William Manns plantation at the mouth of the fawling sprin-
 g on James River then to continue on a south line to the waters of the
 Greenbrier from the beginning, the upper End likewise to begin on the Top
 of North Mountain opposite to the upper inhabitants of the Calf Pasture
 and from thence to the head waters of the cow and Bull pastures then on
 South Line the waters of the Green byer from the beginning. and ~~and~~
 our bounds is very Extensif. and inhabitation plenty in number and Sufi-
 cient Circumstance to make good all necessary public buldings required by
 we Earnestly pray that your goodness may take our case into yr consid-
 ration and grant ~~to our~~ petition allowing our Court House to be built
 in the Cowpasture where it may be sentrable and agreed upon by the
 majority of us yr petitioners & we rest in suspence in hopes of suc-
 cess in our request.

And we as in duty bound shall pray.

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1724/42 County Government - Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va.

The above Petition of 127 names purpotes to be 'the first petition that we sent to the Virginia Assembly asking for the formation of Bath County, of which Pocahontas County was later a part this petition bears date of April 13th 1778 and is found in the Annals of Bath County Va. on pge 106 .

Slightly more than a year later there was a second Petition. A third Petition was presented in the very same year 1779. asking that the proposed county include portions of Botetout and Rockbridge lying in the Cowpasture and Jackson River Valleys. It was presented that in order to attend Court some of the petitioners had to travel hundreds of miles and cross high mountains and rapid streams

Notwithstanding the energy shown in these efforts, the time was not favorable to immediate action. The people of Virginia had to struggle with high taxation and depreciated money. The Revolution had not yet been fought to a finish, and much attention was necessarily bestowed upon the British, the Tories and the Indians.

In 1780 and 1781, the British armies were ravaging the country East of the Blue Ridge so we need not be surprised that further effort was made until after the return of peace. In 1785 there was a petition signed by 522 men, John McCreery, Alexander Black, John Kincaid, John Lewis, of Warm Springs, Va. being the most active men in the movement. In Oct. 1785 there was another petition, the petitioners saying that trouble with the Indians had prevented them from addressing the Assembly at an earlier date. The settlers West of the Allegheny (which is now the region of Pocahontas County)

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1/24/42 County Government Samuel, G. Smith . Hillsboro, W. Va Pocahontas Co.

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Joseph Green	Robert McGreery	John Macdonly	Davãã Frame
Mathis Benston	Wm Hhea	Thomas Feemster	Joseph Green Jr
Wm Jameson	John Feemster	John Kinging	Jas Crocket
John Wilson, Jr	James Peeble	Alex Crocket	Jas Dunwodie
John Hicklin	William Black	Wm Dunwodie	Thos. Hicklin
Alex Black	Wm Given	Jas Hicklin	William Jackson
John Montgomery	Wm Green	William Stewart	John Carlil
James Stewart	John Montgomery	James Carlil	Edward Stewartt
John Montgomery	Robert Carlil	Joseph Beathe	Patrick Miller
John Kincaid	James Hugart	William McCanless	George Benston
John Atwarding	Thos. Douglas	Jno Dunlap	Joseph Mayes Jr.
William Smith	Robert Loughridge	Joseph Mayes Jr	John Beverage
William Loughridge	George Francisco	Robert McMullin	John Loughrid
Chas Cameron,	William Kilpatrick,	Andey Loughridge,	Robt Peeble,
Andr McCoslin,	Joseph Carpenter,	Robt McCee,	Thos Davis,
James Botkin,	Lofty Pullin,	George Carlisle,	James Clements,
Loftis Pullin Junr,	Christopher Graham,	Jas Clements Sear,	Sam Guliam,
Irvin Benson,	John Redman.	Wm. Wilson,	Wm. Johnson , Hxxk rdan
Robert Duffel	John Smith	John Wilson	Stephen Wilson
Thomas Cartmill	John Mickenson	Anthony Johnson	Hugh Hicklin
Robert McFarland	James Rucker jr	Jacob Warwick	Wm. Daugherty sen
Samuel McDannell	Robert Hall	John Beard	Wm. Daugherty sr.
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1/24/42 County Government Samuel, G Smith . Hillsboro, W. Va Pocahontas Co

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County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co.

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This list of names are the ones signing the petition. This report was very hard to type due to bad spelling etc, therefore it took longer.

This section is for the earlier part of my assignment that I had difficulty gathering data on at that time.

Pocahontas County has grown from the time of formation 1821 with little or no valuation has continued to grow until at the present time the personal property of the county amounts to ~~18,174,150~~ 2,648,690 real estate ~~4,344,560~~ 4,344,560 all property 18174,150 the assessed valuation of real estate has decreased in the last few years due largely to the government buying up a greater part of our out over mountain land that has been put into a national forest, thus decreasing our real estate as shown by the

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County Government. S.O.S Pocahontas County.

and book valuation, however our personal property has continued to grow due to intensified farming, so in conclusion although we have less acres assessed our personal property grows from year to year due largely to this being an industrial county that has been built upon sound principles led by future thinking men until today the county enjoys many organizations and clubs as we find an active Red Cross Chapter, American Legion with Clark Young as Commander and Paul Overholt Adjacent, many A.F. & A.M. Lodges with the Eastern Star, Royal Order of The Moose, Odd Fellows, Modern Woodmen besides the county enjoys a very active Farm Bureau with G.M. Sharp as its president, with this organization we have the Greenbrier Cooperative Shippers Association and the Wool Marketing Association. The Farm Womens Bureau president is Mrs John Pritchard and The W.Va. Farm Women Bureau Secretary is Mrs Nellie Hafner, of Buckeye, W.Va. Our own Calvin W. Price is president of the W.Va. Wild Life Federation.

The county has a good school system, the county unit system replacing the rural schools, as the pupils are trucked in to educational centers throughout the county. The county is served by three accredited High schools one at Hillsboro, one at Marlinton and the third at Greenbank.

Information— County Records Marlinton, W.Va.

And from records found in Bath County Va. now held by R.W. Brown
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County Government, S.G.S Pocahontas County.

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West Virginia Writers' Project
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Subject County Government. Date 1/31/42
Research Worker Samuel G. Smith. Date Research Taken 1/28, 29, 30/42
Typist Samuel G. Smith. Date Typed 1/31/42
Source County Court Records. Date Filed _____
Marlinton. W. Va.
W. Va. Blue Books of 1904-1935-1939. incl.



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County Government. Samuel G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County. # 1.

Pocahontas County the third largest county in the state with 4
registerial districts ~~xxx~~ Edray, Huntersville, Greenbank and Little Levels
with 30 voting precincts in an area of 942.61 square miles and a popula-
tion of 14,555 in 1930 the census of 1940 showed Pocahontas County had
actually less population than in 1930 due largely to a shift of the pop-
ulation to more industrial counties where coal is being mined extensively
so our loss is the gain in other industrial counties throughout the
state. The voting precincts throughout the county are as follows for

Little Levels District Millpoint, Hillsboro, Seebert, Beard, Lobelia
and Droop Mountain. For Edray District East And West Marlinton, Buckeye,
Edray, Alderney, Cloverlick, Linwood, Mace, Slatyfork and Woodrow, while for
Huntersville District we have East Buckeye, Frost, Huntersville and Minn-
ehaha Springs. For Greenbank District Dunmore, Greenbank, Boyer, Hosterman,
Durbin, Cass, Thornwood, Spruce, Bartow, .

The major political parties of the county are the Republican and
Democratic parties at this time but about 1900 and for a few years ther-
eafter we had the Prohibition party, the Socialist and Populists and and
in 1912 we had what was known as the Bull Moose Ticket but it was unsuc-
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County Government. S.G.S. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. Page 2.
of about 1100.

In 1904 there were 2,347 votes cast in Pocahontas County by all parties 111,167 Republican 1,130 Democrats and 50 all others. In 1934 the total registration for the county was 7,665 of this number 4,189 were Democrats, 3,388 were Republicans and 88 all others, the total vote cast in the general election of 1934 was 5,300 with a Democratic vote of 2,589 and a Republican vote of 2,678 all others 33 or a 69.15 percent of all registered voters in both parties, the Democratic percent was 61.80 while that of the Republicans was 79.04. In 1938 the vote cast in the county by both major parties was 5,298 this was 67.59 percent of the registered voters of both parties the Democratic party voted 60.66 % while the Republicans voted only 39.34 %. Those voting Democratic were 3,214 and those voting Republican were 2,084. Both the Democratic and the Republican Parties are very active within the county and although this is traditionally a Democratic County many offices are filled from time to time by Republicans, as Pocahontas County has long since been known as the county where the voters vote for the man and not the ticket, and as a general rule we here in Pocahontas County have good, able and courageous county servants.

All qualified voters are registered by a Registrar appointed by

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County Government. S.G.S. Pocahontas County Page # 3.

the County Court but recommended by the Democratic and Republican executive committee of the county, these Registrars list the voters that are 21 years old and older, after this has been done they have certain days to sit to register any they might have missed and to correct their books before they are turned in to the county clerk and on the day of the election these books are taken to the Polls to see that no one votes that is not registered, all citizens of the county are entitled to vote but aliens and people of unsound minds. After an election the County Court sits to canvass the returns and signs certificates of election. In 1940 the voters voted for a permanent registration thereby doing away with the job of re-registering the voters each election year so hereafter we will have a permanent registration, any moving, or the ones coming voting age will have to go to the county Clerk and be registered or have him make necessary changes.

George Sharp of Frost is County chairman of the Republican party and Fred C. Allen of Marlinton is chairman of the Democrat party, and it is to the leadership of these men that to see that their party functions properly.

When the depression came in 1930 Pocahontas County had many idle men and relief was started to assist needy people and so today we have

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a Department of Public Assistance with a case load of the following varying somewhat from time to time, those receiving old age assistance 158 blind 6, dependant children 74, general relief 49 or a total of 301 or a total spent on the needy in Pocahontas County for one year of \$ 35.5 08.00 with administrative cost of \$ 12.567.18.

Pocahontas County is a county with little work only farm work therefore many of her population have no work save for relief work by the W.P.A building roads of which consist of the following primary Roads designated miles 129.686, miles improved 119.836 mostly by the State Road Commission our secondary roads on which the W.P.A work mostly designated miles 464.000 miles improved 196.560, by the use of W.P.A in Pocahontas County we now have many miles of farm to market roads that use to be impassible atleast six months out of each year, for these roads the rural citizens of the county sbe thankful, besides road work the W.P.A has furnished employment to many many people in many walks of life, namely sewing projects, ^{N.Y.A} hot lunches for undernourished school children, furnished public libraries, reasearch workers gathering information on the progress and hapenings within the county so all in all the W.P.A and the Pocahontas County Department Of Public Assistance of Pocahontas County has meant a lot to the many people found within her borders. And the cou-

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County Government for their cooperation in sponsoring many of these projects.

Pocahontas County has a good law enforcement body as we have the Sheriff and his three deputies besides two state Police, besides the many Justices and Constables throughout the county not counting the town police of our larger towns within the county. The Sheriff office functions out of the county seat also the State Police, all these officers have cars and on short notice can be in any section of the county in a very short time.

(More About elections) As we use the Australian Ballot and believe in honest elections that the polls open at sun up or six oclock and remain open until sundown or approximately six oclock in the evening.

The election officials consist of the following commissioners that see that is held according to law and is assisted by poll clerks who do all the writing and tally all votes and when sundown comes one of the Comm- goes outside the building and exclaims in a loud voice that the polls are closed, they are opened in a like manner in the morning.

Pocahontas County has a very active Farm Bureau, with between 300 and 350 active members, the most of which ship their livestock cooperatively also sell their wool through the wool pool which always grades very

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high,Pocahontas County participates in the Soil Conservation Program, the farmer getting aid for performing certain good farming practices, namely the seeding of soil conserving crops, seeding legumes, applying lime and Superphosphate, this program came into existence about 1933 or 34 to help the farmers of the county state and nation to build up their farms to produce more on less farm acreage, this aid along with the tax limitation amendment has meant more to the farmers of W.Va. and Pocahontas County than any legislation passed in recent years by our law making bodies both state and national, as the farmer had been staggering under a tax burden for years so in 1932 Thomas C. Townsend had this amendment voted on and it carried by a large majority. The first County Agent of Pocahontas County was Bert Johnson who was hired about 1916 or 17 as a number of farmers had gotten up a petition which was put before the County Court asking that the court hire a County Agent, and after due consideration Johnson was hired to serve the farmers of Pocahontas County and we have continued this practice these many years with much progress and aid to the rural population of the county.

Information. County Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

W. Va. Blue Books # 1934-1935- and 39 inclusive.

high,Pocahontas County participates in the Soil Conservation Program, the farmer getting aid for performing certain good farming practices, namely the seeding of soil conserving crops, seeding legumes, applying lime and Superphosphate, this program came into existence about 1933 or 34 to help the farmers of the county state and nation to build up their farms to produce more on less farm acreage, this aid along with the tax limitation amendment has meant more to the farmers of W.Va. and Pocahontas County than any legislation passed in recent years by our law making bodies both state and national, as the farmer had been staggering under a tax burden for years so in 1932 Thomas C. Townsend had this amendment voted on and it carried by a large majority. The first County Agent of Pocahontas County was Bert Johnson who was hired about 1916 or 17 as a number of farmers had gotten up a petition which was put before the County Court asking that the court hire a County Agent, and after due consideration Johnson was hired to serve the farmers of Pocahontas County and we have continued this practice these many years with much progress and aid to the rural population of the county.

Information. County Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va.

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West Virginia Writers' Project
RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Subject County Government.

Date 1/10/42

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith.

Date Research Taken 1/5, 6, 7, 8, 9/42

Typist Samuel G. Smith.

Date Typed 1/9, 10/42

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Focahontas County



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Pocahontas County



COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Samuel G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County. # 1

In 1897 each district appointed road surveyors for Greenbank District I. F. McLaughlin, James P. Wooddell, W. W. Arbogast, John W. Hollen, William Hill, William Gum, French C. Sutton, W. D. McLaughlin, Joseph McLaughlin, James McLaughlin, J. W. Oliver, William Collins, Leslie Beard, Marion Ray, O. A. Lightner, John Gregg, Zach Nottingham, Thos. H. McLaughlin, Henry Flanner, Samuel Moore, Sandy Patterson, D. L. Kerr, George S. Ray, Ananias Puffinbarger, George Houghin, Walter Vint, Isaac Arbogast. (Little Levels) David Gladwell, F. Lee Cackley, George Beard, Cameron L. Clark, Michell McClure, N. M. McCoy, J. B. Grimes, N. S. Rogers, J. M. McClure, W. B. Hill, John D. Payne, W. N. Clark, Matt Woods, Stark Morrison, Emmett Nottingham, F. A. Renick. (Huntersville District) Amos Fertig, William H. Dilley, Ellis Moore, C. D. Buzzard, Lloyd Reed, L. J. Files, William H. Clegg, Thomas Malcomb, S. C. Kincaid, Sherman Curry, A. H. Sharp, J. H. Buzzard, J. H. Doyle, John R. Shrader, F. F. Patterson, Isaac P. Dean, Wilson W. Dilley, Amos F. McLaughlin, (Laray District) Page Gay, John E. Barlow, James E. Wilkerson, George Baxter, D. W. Sharp, George Auldridge, W. G. Cochran, James B. White, Luther Kellison, Joseph Pennell, M. W. Gordon, H. B. Gelford, J. F. McCollam, J. Albert Sharp, Wm. Wooddell, Most of the road work at this time was done on the main Marlins Bottom-Louisburg turnpike as all our goods had to be wagoned from Ronceverte and regardless of how much work that was done it was almost impassible about six months out of the year.

For the year 1897 the following were the road surveyors of Pocahontas County were

POCAHONTAS COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Samuel G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County. # 1

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At about the first of the year the auctioneers of Pocahontas County were

C.B. Smecker and D.A. Fisher as they were licensed by the county court in 1896 and the doctors reporting births and deaths in 1897 were Drs. H.W. McNeel, S.P. Patterson, W.T. Cameron, J.W. Price, F.T. McClintic, J.M. Cunningham, J.P. Moorman and Chas. Swinn.

The levy up to and including this time 1898 averaged something like \$ 11,000.00 with the rate running from 40 to 50 cents but after 1900 when the railroad made its appearance up the Greenbrier the levy was higher but the rate was very low in fact in 1906 it was only 5 cts on the \$100.00 valuation this was due largely to the railroad and the wholesale manufacture of our main resource our timber.

Before the coming of the railroad the county ^{buildings} burned wood which was bought for \$ 1.55 a cord, this to be all hardwood and in 1899 the Laurel Creek Telephone Company was given authority by our county court which consisted of the following members Amos Barlow, M.J. McNeel and John Warwick to place their poles along the highway leading to this particular section. The County Court of 1902 was the same as the above only Dr. John Ligon replaced Mr. Warwick, for 1904 the court consisted of the following W.A.G. Sharp, Dr. Ligon and M.J. McNeel. That of 1906 was William H. Hull, Dr. Ligon and A. Mr. Sharp, for 1908 they were Dr. Ligon, James F. Darnell and Mr. Sharp, and for 1909 the same as 1908 only R.S. Hickman replaced Dr. Ligon on our county court.

O.B Swecker and D.A Fisher as they were licensed by the county court in 1895 and the doctors reporting births and deaths in 1897 were Drs. H.W Mc-neel, S.P Patterson, W.T Cameron, J.W Price, F.T McClintic, J.M Cunningham, J.P Moorman and Chas. Grinn.

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No doubt the first colored minister ^{John R. Davis} ~~at NC~~ was a licensed preacher was granted power by our court to perform matrimony in 1906 with the late Joseph H Wilson as his surety. A school book board was established in the county 1904 with the following men J.B Grimes, George P. Moore, J.W Hill, T.A Bruffey, S.B Hannah, W.R Sutton, and W.H Grose as members that sat once each year. The term of school throughout Pocahontas County had been from 4 to 6 months but At Marlinton they decided to have an independent school district as they wanted a longer term of school in this fast growing small rural town, but in order to have this the citizens of the county had to vote on it, no doubt this is where our present 9 month term originated.

After the railroad made its appearance up the Greenbrier in 1900 many roads had to be made leading from our main highways to the railroad at various points throughout the county, the Seebert road was built 1901

this road served the people from Little Levels for many years, or until the trucking age. ^{Buckeye, River bridge built 1909 to serve} ~~The people of this section. By Farm Co. J.W. & Pa -~~

^{24 1/2 mi in length to Buckeye station of S & O}

The Pocahontas Development Company with main offices in Grafton bought up all the land on which the town of Marlinton now stands and sold the lots off as the town grew. No doubt the first road machinery of heavy nature was bought by our county court in 1901 through Barlow & Moore at Edray. Our present drug store was bought from Harry Echols by S.B

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One of Pocahontas Countys beloved citizens began his career in 1903, this is none other than our own Professor G.D McNeill of Buckeye who was admitted to the bar of Pocahontas County in 1903 and in 1904 was elected as Prosecuting Attornet of the county but resigned in 1906 and joined the Navy, serving for quite sometime gaining much knowledge and experience and upon returning to the county took up ~~thxx~~ educational work and taught in our public schools throughout the county until 1920 when he was elected County Superintendent of schools serving one term and in 1925 started teaching in the Marlinton High School serving as principal of this institution, this position he held until 1941 when he was employed by Davis & Elkins ^{Gibby} as one of its instructors at Elkins. W. Va. G.D as he is known has done much in helping build up a good county government as he emphasizes citizenship, and this is the key to good county government. J.B Grimes having been elected as County Superintendent in 1902 and he and B.B Williams served from that time until 1920. Following G.D McNeill came Miss Anna

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Wallace of Millpoint who served in that ~~xx~~ capacity until 1928 when she was replaced by Clarence E.Flynn of Arbovale,W.Va. who served until 1936 and he was replaced by our present County Superintendent Eric S.Clutter of Hillsboro,the county unit system coming in 1932 changing this office from elective to that of an appointive one.Our educational system has done much toward our county government in the training and schooling our citizens to become lawyers and county leaders in some way.

The Board Of Equalization and Review of Pocahontas County for 1910 were the following men J.A Reed,G.W Wilson and M.L Beard,this board was set up as a tax adjustment board for the county.Superintendent of Roads for this time were the following B.M Arbogast for Greenbank District,for Edray District James Gibson,Little Levels Ellis McCarty with G.A McNeel as his assistant,G.M Sharp for Huntersville District each had men working under them.

Many of Pocahontas Countys' present lawyers came into prominence about this time as P.T Ward received his commission as Notary Public in 1906,and in 1906 was elected a Justice of the Peace in Greenbank District after this he moved to Marlinton to practice law ,since that time has served as a lawyer of the county and along with his practice is secretary of the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore for this county,serving the farmers when nee

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In 1908 C.J McCarty was elected County Clerk, and he chose as his deputy J.G Tilton. Samuel B. Moore was elected Assessor with L.S Cochran and J.W Oliver as his deputies. In that same year E.F Curry was elected County Surveyor. The following men were elected throughout the county, for Greenbank District T.M Kiern Justice of the Peace, and S.T Ruckman Constable. For Little Levels District F.T LaRue and C.M Anderson as Justices, D.M Kinnison Constable. Edray District J.B Hannah and Uriah Bird as Justices and C.H McCoy ^{+ Adam Moore} Constable. Huntersville District Coe Beverage Justice and Upton Sharp Constable. Those obtaining Notary Commissions H. Lee White, Elmer D Burner, J.B Grimes and A.P Edgar. S.R Hogsett was appointed overseer of the poor. The County Estimate for 1908 was \$ 33.702.

In the election of 1904 George W Duncan was elected Surveyor of lands, Justices elected D.B McElwee, G.R Curry, T.A Bruffey, J.W Hill, W.R Hannah, A.M Oliver, Constables D.M Kinnison, R.K Burns. In 1900 E.N Moore was elected Sheriff and in 1904 J.S McNeel elected Sheriff with the following deputies W.J Pritchard, Samuel Sheets, E.A Showalter, G.W Mann and W.A Lekridge.

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Pocahontas County has two favorite sons in the Sharp twins George and Summers H.Sharp,who were born near Frost this county in 1877 working their way through school by working in the lumber camps after completing their schooling George worked himself into a political career so in 1908 he was elected as Circuit Clerk for Pocahontas County,serving in that capacity ^{till} 1920 when he was elected Secretary of State in this capacity he served three terms or till 1932.Summers H. Sharp practiced law in the town of Marlinton and in 1916 he was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Dice as Circuit Judge *for Greenbrier, Monroe & Pocahontas* and upon completion of this term he was elected as Judge for three consecutive terms or until 1936 when he declined to run for judge but offered himself for the office of Governor of the State Of West Virginia on the ~~R~~epublican ticket but was unsuccessful and since that time has been practicing law in Pocahontas and the surrounding counties,along with his law practice he is President of the Pendleton County Bank of Franklin,West Virginia Pendleton County,this bank formally operated in the town of Marlinton as The Farmers And Merchants Bank of Marlinton.

Information-County Records.Courthouse.Marlington.W.Va.

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County Government, Samuel G. Smith, Hillsboro, W. Va. Pocahontas County. #1

Money raised to run our county government from the time of the formation of the county was by levy and this levy had to be voted on and passed favorably by the population of the county the following is a list of the levys' of Pocahontas County from 1880 to 1889 for 1880 \$5,637.00 81- this was 36 cts on each 100.00 valuation of property of each property holder, 81-8938.00 or a raise in the rate to 55 cts on the hundred dollars, 82- 6607.00 and 40 cts on the hundred, 83- 6,183.00 33 cts in 1884 the levy was for 6,425.00 and the rate was 35 cts for 85- 6,467.00 and the same rate as the year before for 86- 6,225.00 and the rate cut to 34 cts but this was a low for a few years for in the year of 87- it raised to 7,875.00 and the rate at 40 cts for 88- 6,849. rate 37 cts and for 89 - 5,875.00 the rate $33\frac{1}{3}$ most of the variation was for the care of the unfortunate of the county in one way or another.

It was in the year of 1880 that a committee was appointed to examine the jail at Huntersville and they decided it was not a safe place to hold prisoners so it was decided by the court to send our prisoners to the Greenbrier County jail but after some investigation on the part of our county officials the order was revoked and our jail ordered rebuilt to the lowest responsible bidder and he was Samuel Strong of Northumberland County Virginia for \$4,440.00 this took place while Levi Gay was Sheriff of this county.

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The County Court of Pocahontas County from 1881 to 1897 were as follows for 81 William Curry, Sherman H. Clark and Samuel B. Hannah, this 82 Barlow of men served until 1885 when George P. Moore replaced William Curry, but in 1885 C. E Beard replaced Sherman H. Clark, the court of 91 was C. E Beard, S. B Hannah, and George M. Kee. For 92 Amos Barlow replaced S. B Hannah, this body of men served until 97 and this court consisted of the following gentlemen C. E Beard, Amos Barlow and John R. Warwick.

John J Beard who served as clerk of the County Court for quite some time also served as Circuit Clerk besides his routine work he had to keep up a jury list also record all deeds and in the 80s they recorded as we do today the one doing the selling is the grantor while the one receiving the property is known as the grantee.

The toll house at Academy now Hillsboro having served its purpose for considerable time was sold in 1880 to R. V Hill. At this same time Levi Day was elected Sheriff, John C. McLaughlin Assessor, George Baxter surveyor of lands, and Daniel Stoffer as Prosecuting Attorney.

At each election the question of power to levy was voted on by the people of Pocahontas County, for it was this power that the court had to lay the levy that raised the money that they operated the county on. It was in the year of 1879 that Samuel B. Hannah served as County Superintendent

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In 1890 the late N.C. McNeill was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County, after practicing some few years as a servant of the people he was elected State Senator in 1896 and served in that capacity one term, after retiring from politics he had a good practice in the town of Marlinton until about 1927 when he was compelled to retire on account of ill health.

In 1890 R.B. Kerr was chosen superintendent of the Staunton And Parkersburg Turnpike from the Virginia line to the Randolph County line, toll gates being erected at various places along this road the tolls so collected to go for the upkeep of this road. It was in 1888 that the court appointed a commission to view a way for a road from the mouth of Swago Creek across the Buckley Mountain to intersect with the Beaver Creek at Ferrys' mill. it was about this time that a way was viewed for a road leading to White Sulphur Springs starting at Burr Valley.

In 1889 M.G. Mathers was elected County Superintendent of Schools also a commissioner of schools from each district which were composed of the following names for Huntersville District R.P.M. Harper, Faray District H.C.

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About 1890 John E. Campbell editor of The Pocahontas Times received \$ 45.00 for all county printing for the period of one year. In 1890 J. H. Patterson was elected clerk of the Circuit Court the late S. L. Brown serving as County Clerk.

No doubt our wildlife protection started about 1890 when the late John T. McGraw and the West Virginia And Pittsburgh Railroad Company asked that Williams River and all its' tributaries be set aside as a bird and game refuge, this is one of Pocahontas Countys' finest and best hunting grounds, since that time the timber has been cut and a greater part of this wooded section is in our National Forest and is known far and near as the sportsmens paradise.

From 1870 up to 1900 we found many private homes serving the traveling public as Hotels these being on the main highways from one end of the county to the other and one of these hotels happened to be licensed 1895 and by the way this one in particular means much to this writer as

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It was in 1891 that the question arose about the removal of the county seat from Huntersville to the historic spot known in the days of the pioneer as Marlin Bottom and later named Marlinton,this action was started by a petition signed by 697 qualified voters,the present site of the Court House was placed on the lands of the late Andrew McLaughlin farm but owned in 1891 by John T.McGraw and sold to the county by the Pocahontas & county Development Company,this era was known as the boom of what once was Marline Bottom,and by this doing the Chesapeake And Ohio Railroad was induced to penetrate our county up the Greenbrier from Ronceverte to Durbin.Before action was taken it was voted on by the citizens of the county,the voting places designated throughout the county were as follows, and the ones holding these elections also,Academy(now Hillsboro)W.W Beard, Johnny B.Kinnison and George B.McNeel.Split Rock R.S Varner,James Herold and F.F Vandevort.

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Buckeye-R.E Overholt, W.H McClintic and William C McNeill. These men held an election and the results of this election caused Pocahontas County to develop into one of West Virginias greatest industrial counties, all because of our public spirited future thinking citizens, for if the county seat had not been changed making an industrial center no doubt we would not have enjoyed the Rail Road for years to come, but right after the county seat was moved and Marlinton began to build up along came the R.R furnishing us communication with the outside world and furnishing us an outlet for our many products but mainly lumber, this era was an industrial and expensive one.

INFORMATION-County Records. Court House. Marlinton. W.Va.

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Date 1/3/42

Research Worker Samuel G. Smith

Date Research Taken 12/31.1/2,3/42

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Much of the time of the court at that time was spent holding special elections pertaining to removal or in letting contracts for construction of our present set of County buildings of which the citizens of Pocahontas are proud and justly so as we have one of the best court houses that

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No doubt the first bowling alley ever to operate in Pocahontas County was operated in 1894 by A. C. Gunther at Marlinton the license being issued by the county court.

Our County Clerks and Circuit Clerks having operated together up to this time in the same office were separated in 1893 each having separate quarters. No doubt Dr. J. W. Price was the first member of the board of health of Pocahontas County. Pocahontas Countys' first drug store was licensed by the county court in 1893 the license were issued to Cunningham And Smith.

During the time the county owned and operated a poor farm near Hillsboro different men rented it for prices ranging from \$ 150.00 to \$ 250. they in turn were paid by the county from \$ 30.00 to \$ 40.00 for each pauper

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fed each month, this farm having served a noble service during its' county ownership. It was in 1896 that the Pocahontas Telephone Company received permission from the county court to set their poles along the then county roads, this was the beginning of what might be called the contact period of this county for from this grew lines over the greater part of Pocahontas. It was in 1897 that our present Justice Of The Peace T.S McNeel was admitted to the bar in Pocahontas County, after serving as a lawyer for his fellow countymen he was elected Prosecuting Attorney at the beginning of the Nineteenth century and since that time has served as a Justice from Idury District for a number of years.

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Information. County Records. Court House. Marlinton. W. Va.

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County Government. Samuel G. Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas Co. # 1
Pocahontas County has had many toll gates and bridges throughout
county, the toll charged at toll bridges was for one horse 10 cts, for
a vehicle and a horse 15 cts, a vehicle and two horses 20 cts and 5 cts for
each additional horse to the vehicle and the rate for stock was 10 cts per
score. The rate to our own county citizens was cheaper than to outside tr-
avelers. Some of these old toll houses having served their day were sold and
toll collected elsewhere as was the case of the one at Academy which was
offered for sale in 1873. In 1874 J. D. Price was appointed toll gatherer at
Marlinbottom bridge he was to receive 25 % for his services the remainder
to be turned over to the county, he collected \$ 70.00 in seven months. Mail
carriers had a special rate of \$ 6.00 per annum.

Our present capitation tax was started about 1873 or 74. In 1874
it was deemed advisable by the court to build two clerks offices and repair
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Moffett at \$ 2,000.00. Much of the time spent by our county court was to
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W. Sharp, Abraham Sharp, I. Brown Moore, Preston Harper, Henry Sharp, Wm
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The overseers of the poor at that time were Uriah Hevener, Joseph Dilley,
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The salaries of the county officials of 1875 were Sheriff and Jailor
William L. McNeil \$ 225.00 Wm L. Arbogast commissioner of revenue \$ 350.00
William Curry Circuit and County Clerk \$ 250.00, John Ligon was president of
the County Court with William Baxter, Frances Dever, William L. Brown, John G.
Beard and Isaac McNeil other commissioners any three of them could act and
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In the year 1875 Free Mason Lodge was formed at Huntersville and given a room in the Court House, also the Huntersville Grange another organization was given quarters in the Court House. These and many others were the accommodations that the citizens of Pocahontas County enjoyed at the expense of the county but not added expense. It was in 1873 that the Wash-

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Rev. M. D. Dunlap served as County Superintendent for a short time in
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In 1879 one of Pocahontas Countys long talked of problems was solved
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the people of the county every since the formation of the county.

One of Pocahontas Countys' beloved servants begun his career as far as service to his county was concerned in 1876 this was Squire L. Brown who in 1876 was elected constable from the Greenbank District after serving his term as constable he was elected deputy clerk for John G. Beard then clerk of the county court, after serving his county in that capacity for some time and in 1884 offered himself as candidate for the clerk of the county court and was elected, to this office he was elected every six years thereafter save for one term when he was replaced about 1906 by the late C.J. McCarty. Mr. Brown having served the people of Pocahontas for a period of approximately 40 years the longest service that any citizen so far has attained. His long career as a county official is a living memory to the ones he served. Squire L. Brown was born August 22 1851 at Greenbank and departed this life June 14, 1934 thus the passing of Pocahontas Countys' oldest county official so far as service is concerned. Mr. Brown served as clerk at Huntersville long before the county seat was moved to Marlinton. It was his delight to serve his fellow man. Mr. Brown contributed much to the growth of our county government in making it efficient as far as he could.

XXXXXXXXXXXX He was replaced by our present County Clerk Woody Kincaid.

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One of Pocahontas Countys' beloved servants begun his career as far as service to his county was concerned in 1876 this was Squire L. Brown who in 1876 was elected constable from the Greenbank District after serving his term as constable he was elected deputy clerk for John G. Beard then clerk of the county court, after serving his county in that capacity for some time and in 1884 offered himself as candidate for the clerk of the county court and was elected, to this office he was elected every six years thereafter save for one term when he was replaced about 1906 by the late C.J. McCarty. Mr. Brown having served the people of Pocahontas for a period of approximately 40 years the longest service that any citizen so far has attained. His long career as a county official is a living memory to the ones he served. Squire L. Brown was born August 22 1851 at Greenbank and departed this life June 14, 1934 thus the passing of Pocahontas Countys' oldest county official so far as service is concerned. Mr. Brown served as clerk at Huntersville long before the county seat was moved to Marlinton. It was his delight to serve his fellow man. Mr. Brown contributed much to the growth of our county government in making it efficient as far as he could.

XXXXXXXXXXXX He was replaced by our present County Clerk Moody Kincaid.

XXXXXXXXXXXX Marlinton, Va. Pocahontas Times. Marlinton. W.E.

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County Government. Samuel G Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

During the Civil War our county government ceased to operate as it was almost impossible to preserve the county records and during the war the records were out of the courthouse as much as four years and today these old books show the stain of buckwheat straw as they were hidden in a buckwheat straw rick for quite sometime and were as far away as Allegheny County Virginia and during the battle of Droop Mountain they were hid near Lobelia which is in the Western part of Pocahontas County. William Curry was the clerk at the outbreak of the war so it was by his faithfulness and loyalty to his county and its government officials that these records were preserved and stand today as a memorial to those old gentlemen that labored so faithfully that we might have county government founded ~~founded~~ by true Americans that has stood the test for these many years.

George P. Moore was commissioned Post Master at Edray during the war he being one of the prominent citizens in our county Government for many years previous .

In Hende Township the following men were chosen, Supervisor Adam Nottingham, B. A Arbogast township clerk, Adam Nottingham Justice, B. N Arbogast was chosen Constable, Harvey Nottingham Treasurer, Addison Irvine Overseer of the Poor, with Martin C Dilley and Andrew Wanless as inspectors of ele-

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Charles Morrison was chosen Supervisor for the Township of Union with B.B Garvey overseer of the poor, Abraham Hill Treasurer, Morgan Anderson Justice of the Peace and James F Hill Constable with Jacob McCarty and Jacob W. Smith as inspectors of elections for Meade Township. This work having been completed the Supervisors turned to the appointment of surveyors of roads for the various townships and the making of a list of men to be drawn as jurors this being completed they adjourned to meet at Edray on Tuesday the 7th day of November 1865. And when this time rolled around you found those present were Adam ~~XXXXXX~~, Nottingham, Pres. Jonathan McNeill, and Charles Morrison this being a quorum they went about transacting such business that might come before such a body at this meeting an election was ordered held and the following men were chosen for office serving the entire county as they do today, Joseph A Thompson was elected Prosecuting Attorney, Daniel Kellison as surveyor of lands, Robert Gay as Recorder, William B Hannah assessor and Robert Gay was also chosen as clerk of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas County. John T Wanless was elected Sheriff, L.H Sharp Commissioner of Schools, and Geo. F Moore elected as County Superintendent of Schools, at this time a judge had to be chosen for the ninth judicial circuit of which Pocahontas was a part S. Harrison was chosen as judge, also a senator had to be chosen from the same

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County Government. S.G.S. Pocahontas County. Page # 3 -----
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It was in the year of 1865 that a license was issued to James A Price to open a hotel at Marlins Bottom which in later years became the County seat of Pocahontas County. At this time the revenue of the county was very low as thus far they had not been able to lay the county levy and they had borrowed all the money that was available from individuals to meet current expenses and to furnish stationery and books to the clerk for the proceedings of the court to be recorded. The county subscribed \$ 10,000.00 capital stock in the Monongahela and Lewisburg Rail Road with the understanding that the Railroad must pass through the county at certain points this was ratified by a 3/5 majority of the voters of the county and it was at this meeting that they resolved to have their next meeting at Huntersville July 1. 1865 and it was at this meeting in 66 that the first talk was made about removing the county seat from Huntersville which

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erialized near the end of the eighteenth century. This period thus far since the close of the war is known as the reconstruction period of Pocahontas County as much had to be done to make up for the time lost during the war when our county government ceased to function which was a grave matter to the many citizens of the county especially at that particular time when the county was so badly torn up by the war that had raged within its borders for over three years leaving many homeless and poverty stricken, children fatherless and the county almost bankrupt and out of gear so to speak as they had to start almost like they did at the very beginning of our county government at the time of the formation of the county.

X Information- Court Records.Marlington.W.Va.
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I County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County. # 1

Pocahontas County has been represented in the Legislature by the following men Benoni Griffin 1863-64 Jacob McCarty 1867, Samuel Gibson 1869, Nathan G. Barlow 1870, John M. Lightner 1872, William J. Wooddell 1873-75, George W. Siple 1877, George H. Moffett 1879-81, Henry A. Yeager 1883-87, I. B. Moore 1891-96, M. J. McNeel 1897. Dr. J. P. Moonau 1893-95-1903, J. W. Price 1905, Davis L. Barlow 1907, L. M. McClintic 1901, A. D. Williams 1909, 1911-23 by J. A. McLaughlin, George W. Wilson 1913, B. M. Yeager 1915-17, Harry Blackhurst 1919, E. N. Moore 1921, 1925-33 by F. R. Hill, Dr. George F. Hull 1927-29. William C. Gardner 1931, Stanley J. Rexrode 1935, June McElwee from 1937 to 41.

In the state senate Pocahontas County has been represented by the following men Samuel Young 1863-64-67-70, William McNeel 1881-83, N. C. McDill 1897-99, Fred C. Allen 1937-41, the time in between these dates we were served by men from some other county laying within the bounds of our district but as the dates will confirm Pocahontas has only had the honor of electing four men to the state senate up to the present time.

Pocahontas County has the honor and distinction of having produced one man that was elected to the House of Delegates that was chosen Speaker of the House in our lower branch of representatives he being George H. Moffett and some of the same blood XXXX as the Moffetts that served as Clerk of our county Court in our first county government.

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After the war the cost of our county government gradually rose to a high figure for 1870 it took \$ 4,981.00 in 1871 \$ 5,389.00 and 1872 \$ 4,444.00 to meet this ever rising cost meant more work for our county officials responsible for our county government. Much of the money spent by the county in the 18th. century was spent on wolf and fox scalps as this being a mountainous and wooded section these animals had many dens in these they raised their young and preyed on the stock and poultry of our pioneer farmers and just about cleaned them out until a bounty was put on them and then the livestock industry began to grow and today the livestock industry is the leading industry of Pocahontas County and we are very thankful to these old gentlemen that put the bounty on these varments that were so detrimental to what later grew to be our leading industry. These bounties were paid out of county funds but authorized by our county courts and boards of supervisors. It was in 1870 that a malady struck many flocks of sheep in Union Township and the sheep raisers and producers of the county went to the board of Supervisors and had a ban put on the movement of sheep from that section and had all sick and dead animals burned to check the spread of this disease. No sheep were allowed moved out of this area until 1871.

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elected clerk of the board of supervisors for Pocahontas County with
Peter L.Curry serving also as clerk to that body for quite sometime.
O.J Stulting having been elected superintendent of Schools of the county.

Many of the old wooden gates that swung across our county roads
during the 18th century were authorized by our County Courts and the
Boards of Supervisors but these gates having served their purpose in
their day were gradually done away with until today the only gates to be
found within the borders of the county are on our less used secondary ro-
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At the close of the war when our county government was having such a hard time to exist they had to take all sorts of ways of saving money and one way they did this was to send back to their native county anyone that got within our borders and became dependant or had to have assistance from the county, these charges usually were sent to what is our sister or mother state old Virginia as she was our nearest populated area. This was all brought about by our Overseers of the poor with the assistance of our county officials namely our board of supervisors.

At this time the question was talked of and voted on of forming a new state and in 1871 the vote stood for ratification ^{of the Constitution of 1787} 349 against 57 and in 1872 the vote was for ratification of the amendment 453 and against 285. The board of supervisors of 1871 were Benjamin A. Arbogast, Josiah T. Hogsett, Allen T. Moore and Richard Hill, with Moore serving from Lincoln Township, Hogsett from Grant, Hill of Union and Arbogast of Maude with Peter L. Curry as their clerk. The Supervisors of 1872 were P. D. Carter, William Hogsett and William H. Hull.

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It was in 1872 that a dispute was raised by Greenbrier County about our county line so our Board Of Supervisors appointed a commission to meet a delegation appointed by Greenbrier County and they try to establish a true and permanent boundary between the two counties, and to that commission our board appointed the following men Allen Coalter, George Baxter, and S.B. Loury Jr, these men met with the ones selected by Greenbrier and their findings and recommendations were filed in our Clerk's office and a copy was sent to the Board Of Supervisors ^{of Greenbrier} to be filed in their county records so that this dispute would be settled for all times, but again in 1875 this line was again brought up before our county officials and another commission was appointed to meet with a delegation from Greenbrier County to try and establish our county line, they met and made their report back to their respective counties that they represented in hopes that this would make a permanent line between Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties.

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When the war was over and the new officials of our county government had taken over and the townships established instead of districts Grant township was our present Huntersville District, Lincoln was what is now Id-ray District, Union was what is known as Little Levels today, Maude Township was that portion of Pocahontas County that is known as Greenbank District. The county seat was in Grant Township, but in later years it was moved to Lincoln Township at Marlins Bottom now Marlinton and the largest town in the county, partly due to it being the seat of justice and partly due to the Chesapeake and Ohio Rail Road that passes through it on its run up the Greenbrier from Roncaverte to Durbin.

Just after the Civil War an act of the legislature passed by that body February 21. 1866 requiring the boards of all the counties of the state to appoint a commissioner to reassess the county to this task they appointed William E. Johnson of Lincoln Township. After the land had been assessed many of our land owners complained to the board of supervisors and often had their taxes lowered by reducing the valuation as many homes and farm buildings had been burned during the war and their property damaged in general so this meant more work for our county officials in making adjustments and trying to get things equalized as much as they possibly could. In performing his duties as assessor of the county Johnson received \$299.56 and during the rounds of

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41 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. S.G.S- Pocahontas County. PAGE # 2 -----
in assessing the county he had to gather other data such as births and
deaths. In 1867 the assessed valuation of the county was \$ 10,551.70 of
this the assessor received 3% this was his pay.

The first levy layed from the start of the war until after the
close was June 1867 and was for \$ 3,758.65 much of which was for expense
of repairing the court house and jail at the close of the war, The levy
of 1868 was for \$ 4,473.54 the cost of government still rising as more
roads were being built throughout the county all this fell on the shou-
lders of the board of supervisors to pass on and they in turn turned the
matter over to the many surveyors of roads for establishment or rerouting
as the case might be. At this time our state government thought it best to
have each county report its debts and what it would take to pay current
expenses and clear up the back indebtedness, which was done and it was fo-
und that it would take \$ 4,390.00 to accomplish this end. It was about this
time that the townships were cut up into precincts of which we still have
today as it was thought best to have our county government operating as
near as many of her citizens as possible as so in the formation of the Co-
unity in 21 as it always has been the closer the government is to her peop-
le the more efficient our government can operate in both state and county.

The question again arose about removing the county seat from Hunter-
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41 COUNTY GOVERNMENT. S.G.S- Pocahontas County. PAGE # 2 -----
in assessing the county he had to gather other data such as births and
deaths. In 1867 the assessed valuation of the county was \$ 10,551.70 of
this the assessor received $\frac{3}{100}$ this was his pay.

The first levy layed from the start of the war until after the
close was June 1867 and was for \$ 3,758.65 much of which was for expense
of repairing the court house and jail at the close of the war, The levy
of 1868 was for \$ 4,473.54 the cost of government still rising as more
roads were being built throughout the county all this fell on the shou-
lders of the board of supervisors to pass on and they in turn turned the
matter over to the many surveyors of roads for establishment or rerouting
as the case might be. At this time our state government thought it best to
have each county report its debts and what it would take to pay current
expenses and clear up the back indebtedness, which was done and it was fo-
und that it would take \$ 4,390.00 to accomplish this end. It was about this
time that the townships were cut up into precincts of which we still have
today as it was thought best to have our county government operating as
near as many of her citizens as possible as so in the formation of the Co-
unty in 21 as it always has been the closer the government is to her peop-
le the more efficient our government can operate in both state and county.

The question again arose about removing the county seat from Hunter-
sville and so in the election of 1866 it was put up to the vote of the

people, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ the vote was for removal 85 against 83 the subject was then tabled until the following year 1867 and this time the vote stood for removal 55 against 110 this settled the matter for the time. As the county was greatly in need of revenue it was decided that they would advertise from the time of this meeting in December until March for responsible men to bid on taking the bridge across the Greenbrier River at Marlins Bottom over making a toll bridge out of same and with the money taken in as toll keep the bridge up also a part of the Marlins Bottom Lavisburg Turnpike, this repair to come from the funds collected at the toll bridge.

To repair the court house and jail required 600.00 and the work was done by William Curry with some outside help. Upon the resignation of George P. Moore in 67 Samuel Buzzard was chosen as clerk for the board of supervisors and in 68 was chosen Assessor as A. ^G Adkison who was elected Assessor did not qualify.

With James A Price operating a hotel at Marlins Bottom, Andrew McLaughlin a land owner of that same section obtained a license in 1869 to operate a hotel also. It was about this same time that many license were obtained to sell liquors in private homes and other establishments throughout the county (this was known as the days of the Pig war) in the liquor trade

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It was about 1867 that the question arose about the county subscribing \$50,000.00 in capital stock of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad that was operating at that time at the lower end of the Greenbrier River at Ronceverte. The voters of this county voted against it at that time but again in 1868 the question was again raised but like before was voted down by the voters of the county, but the future thinking citizens of the county did not give up the struggle and so about 1900 saw the C & O operating up the Greenbrier, this was brought about by our county government working on it for a number of years finally accomplishing what they had tried to do for over a quarter of a century. With the coming of the C & O in later years our county government gained in many ways, in taxation, traveling conveyance for her population, was a mode of transportation for our many commodities produced within our borders, so the coming of the R R up the Greenbrier was brought about by our pioneer county government they having been defeated in their efforts time and time again but these men used their untiring efforts at that time that we here in Pocahontas County today might enjoy and appreciate the efforts put forth by our former county leaders that helped establish a county government that has brought us gradually upward for over a century, they fought a good fight

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in establishing our county government.

The supervisors of 1866 were Adam Nottingham, Reuben Buzzard, Wm. B. Hannah and Charles Morrison they received 2.00 for each day spent in transacting routine business, such as the salaries of various office holders determining their duties etc. And today our county government is run on much the same plan as it was founded on over a century ago by our deep thinking public spirited men.

It was about 1868 that the toll bridge was first put into use in Pocahontas County, having served its purpose for a number of years or up to the first part of the nineteenth century when they were done away with by our county courts, they having served their day in helping maintain themselves and part of our main highways, they being brought about by our county government and were done away with by the same body.

Information. County Records. Courthouse. Marlinton. W. Va.

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Subject County Government. Date II/22/4I
Research Worker Samuel G. Smith Date Research Taken II/19, 2I 22/4I
Typist Samuel G. Smith Date Typed II/22/4I
Source Court Records. Marlinton. W. Va. Date Filed _____
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County Government. Samuel G. Smith. Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

It was in 1862 that the first Sheriff of Pocahontas County died and so the county mourned the death of one of our pioneers in county Government Jonathan Jordan. It was about that time that Jacob Kinnison qualified as deputy sheriff for Isaac McNeel.

At the outbreak of the war the inhabitants of the county had to bear many hardships and often suffer misery as the warfare was very barbarous and destructive as many buildings were burned and all sorts of property was damaged or molested, The court had to meet in the old Presbyterian Church at Huntersville as the court house had been set on fire but the records were saved and taken in hiding for their preservation. During the war when all able bodied men were in military service supplies were hard to get and at very high prices especially clothing so it fell on the county court to try and relieve the situation by appointing an agent to purchase cotton yarn and cotton cloth to be used in clothing the families of the soldiers and of poor people to this task they appointed Col. Paul McNeel and gave him the power to use as high as 50,000.00 in relieving the situation as winter was approaching and the populace needed clothing so they had to act in haste lest the lives of people of Pocahontas County be endangered. Each family payed cash for the yarn and the cloth except the less fortunate and to these it was rationed to meet their necessities. During the war it

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Uriah Hevener was chosen Sheriff of Pocahontas County May 26 1864 his tenure of office starting January 1 1865.

At this time it was very hard to get supplies to this section as most of them could only be gotten at Millboro Depot or points farther away and in the distribution of salt after it had been allotted each family had to agree to give one fifth of his allotment and upon arrival at places of distribution had to pay \$5.00 a hundred this meant a very high price for salt but was the only way of obtaining it. And a greater part of the responsibility rested on the hands of the County Court, as the most of the population was dependent on it.

It was about this time that the court made a survey and found that an area of the county 32 by 35 miles was without the services of a physician and so the justices were ousted and a new set

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for the purpose of practicing in Huntersville then the county seat of
Pocahontas County.

In 1865 Pocahontas was in the ninth Judicial Circuit composed of
Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe and McDowell with Nathaniel Harrison as the
judge and it was he that appointed Robert Gay Recorder of Pocahontas Co.

During the war no levy was layed as all the able bodied men of the
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It was in 1841-1842 when the honorable John Grimes represented Poca-
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The people of the county were hilarious over the fact that they were going
to have these Academs and that higher branches of learning could be tau-
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The period that followed after the Civil War might be called the
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officials took over, thereby disrupting the county government and by so doing the efforts of our county officials from the time of first settlement up the outbreak of the war was sacrificed. About the close of the war the county officials were worked very hard as they did not function during the war and many estates had to be settled up when the war closed as many had died and others had been killed upon the fields of battle each side fighting for what they thought was right.

At the close of the war the entire county government was reorganized and starting at this time it was run by a board of supervisors instead of the County Court it was run by in former years, the first meeting of this body was held by a temporary board held at Edray September 24 1865 served from their respective townships as it was called at this time instead of Districts. Peter Grimes was serving from ~~XXXXXX~~ Grant township, George W McKeever for the township of Lincoln and B.N Arbogast from the township of Meade and on motion of a member of that body Peter Grimes was chosen president of that body with George P Moore as temporary clerk. After this a special election was held and James Wanless was chosen county treasurer, Raiben Buzzard was chosen supervisor of Grant Township, Henry H Grimes elected clerk for the township of Grant, L.A Sharp elected treasurer of that township and Daniel McCarty for Justice of the peace, Peter H Grimes as Constable and Peter Buzzard overseer of

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The period that followed the Civil War was a very dark one not only to the citizens of the county but to our county officials as everything that could be destroyed was destroyed and so many people had died or were killed during the war and their property had to be appraised and an administrator be appointed by the county to settle up the estate, the overseers of the poor to find homes for orphan and dependant children as many homes were completely broken up as a result of the war.

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Nancy A McNeill, Buckeye, W. Va. Age 89 years)

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